

**MEETING SUMMARY  
FERNALD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES  
S&A CONFERENCE ROOM  
JULY 2, 2001**

Attendees: Joe Bartoszek (OEPA)  
Donna Bohannon (OEPA)  
Dave Brettschneider (Fluor Fernald)  
John Homer (Fluor Fernald)  
Bill Kurey (FWS) (by phone)  
Jyl Lapachin (Fluor Fernald)  
Lisa Ludwick (Fluor Fernald)  
Lee McDaniel (Fluor Fernald)  
Tom Schneider (OEPA)  
Harold Swiger (Fluor Fernald)  
Eric Woods (Fluor Fernald)  
Pete Yerace (DOE)  
Bill Zebick (Fluor Fernald)

Southern Waste Unit Remediation/Restoration

The revised restoration grading plan for the SWU was distributed prior to the meeting and was the focus of discussions during the meeting. The following outline the key points discussed during the meeting:

- Minor comments were made on the plan including increasing the elevation at the point of effluent from Basin #1 and revising flow direction arrows. It was agreed the drawing would be revised and redistributed to the NRTs for review.
- The timing of remediation activities in the SWU including the removal of Basin #2 and the road into the SWU was discussed. J.D. Chiou agreed that the feasibility of accelerating removal of Basin #2 would be considered.
- Dave Brettschneider discussed the need to keep a portion of the SWU as sand and gravel to continue infiltration to the aquifer and speed groundwater remediation. It was agreed that the addition of clay and topsoil would occur on the slopes and in select areas of the lower elevations.
- Dave Brettschneider also agreed to evaluate the feasibility of bringing future pipelines and access roads into the SWU to support future groundwater extraction wells from the east rather than from the south. Further discussion regarding the needs of the Aquifer Restoration Project would occur this fall when the future needs of the Aquifer Project are better defined.
- The timing of certification activities in the SWU was discussed. It was agreed that all efforts to expedite certification would be explored including the initiation of certification sampling in phases as remediation is completed.
- Remediation and grading activities are scheduled to be complete around the end of September, 2001. Certification activities will need to be complete prior to the initiation of any restoration grading, topsoil application or seeding. The group recognizes that the completion of remediation and certification activities in early winter will constrain the ability to establish vegetation in the area until the spring of 2002. Tom Schneider proposed delaying the removal of the berm to Paddys Run to allow flooding until spring, 2002 when seeding and stabilization have been complete. The group agreed with the recommendation to delay flooding of the area.

### MOU Status

Pete Yerace stated that he had received information that the MOU had been signed by DOE, but was unclear as to the current location of the signed documents. Pete agreed to track down the signed document. Bill Kurey committed to check on the status of the MOU with his legal counsel and report back to the group.

### NRT Settlement

The group discussed outstanding issues regarding final settlement. The revision of the NRRP was discussed and it was agreed that a revised version of the NRRP would be issued to the NRTs for review by the end of July. The revised NRRP would include submittal dates for Restoration Design Plans. It was further agreed that the NRRDP documents would contain scheduled start dates for project implementation. The status of the proposal submitted by the State of Ohio to resolve groundwater issues was discussed by the group. It was agreed that the State of Ohio would settle all outstanding groundwater issues if DOE and Fluor Fernald would agree to construct a building on the FEMP for future stakeholder use. It was agreed that the revised NRRP would contain appropriate language reflecting this approach.

### Current Soil Remediation Issues

J.D. Chiou updated the group on the recent discovery of photos showing the burning and burial of Zirconium in the late 1950's in the area west of the TACO trailers. The information discovered also discussed the disposal of Thorium in the area around the Pilot Plant in the early 1960's. J.D. Chiou also discussed the current availability of \$34 million available due to under-runs for the remainder of FY 01 and FY 02.

### Baseline Ecological Data Collection

John Homer provided an update on the collection of baseline ecological data. A sample of the data collected from one transect was presented to the group for discussion. It was agreed that the method for compiling the coefficient of conservatism (i.e., cc) data would be evaluated. All parties agreed that the collection of data appeared to be consistent with the approach agreed upon by the NRTs. Further discussion of the data collected would occur during the next NRT meeting.

### Restoration Project Implementation Monitoring

The status of Mortality Counts in Area 8, Phase II and the Area 1, Phase I wetland was provided to the group. Eric Woods indicated that mortality counts had just been completed in the Area 1, Phase I wetland and that all patches showed impact from deer browse. It was agreed that the results of the mortality counts would be presented to the group in the next NRT meeting. John Homer provided a summary of the results of mortality counts in the Area 8, Phase II including a summary table. The group agreed that any replanting would generally occur per the design plan with regard to numbers and locations of plants, although some deviation from the design plan would be acceptable if justified. Fluor Fernald agreed to prepare replanting plan to the NRTs outlining the strategy for replacement planting in Area 8, Phase II.

### Deer Management at Fernald

The status of current deer management efforts at Fernald were discussed by the group. Pete Yerace stated that current deer management efforts at the site were not effective in protecting restoration projects. Pete also expressed concern about replanting efforts that would be required in restoration projects to meet the 80% survival requirement if more effective deer management efforts were not initiated. Eric Woods

outlined current deer management efforts which include the installation of tree tubes on all saplings and the application of repellent sprays on all small trees and shrubs. Pete Yerace asked the other NRTs about their thoughts on additional deer controls at the FEMP. Tom Schneider expressed support for reducing the herd on the site. Bill Kurey expressed support for some type of reduction in the number of deer at the site. Pete Yerace stated that he had collected adequate data over the last two years to confirm the number of deer at the site at between 75 and 100. Pete also expressed concern over the ability to conduct a hunt or similar action to reduce the herd. Pete proposed that a combination of individual fencing and the use of depredation permits on adjacent property as the preferred method for reduction. Pete stated that he had developed a general deer management plan over the last two years, but that the implementation of deer management was the responsibility of Fluor Fernald. Fluor Fernald agreed at the end of the discussion to develop a Deer Management Plan for the FEMP by mid August and submit to the NRTs for review.